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P.O. Box 34660
Reno, NV 89533
Telephone: (775) 747-2333
FAX: (775) 747-1337
www.nvnurses.org

To: Nevada State Assembly Commerce Committee

From: Neena Laxalt, Lobbyist, Nevada Nurses Association

Date: March 19, 2003

Regarding: Testimony of Support for Assembly Bill 261

Mr. Chair and members of the Assembly Commerce Committee,

The Nevada Nurses Association thanks you for this opportunity to present supportive testimony on Assembly Bill 261.

This legislation addresses the need for a patient to have continuity in their health care treatment. In the complex health care system we have today many patients are faced with health insurance changes that result in a need to find a new provider of care on short notice. Patients with many serious and chronic conditions that require close monitoring and frequent office visits are often caught between the need for short term treatment and the availability and access of an alternative provider of care. It is not unusual for a patient to have to wait several weeks for an appointment with a new provider. Many of these patients need follow-up evaluation, medication, diagnostic interpretation, and other care that cannot be safely rendered at a later time. This legislation ensures that patients in the middle of a course of treatment will be able to receive needed care until they can re-establish treatment with another provider without having to pay for continuity of care out of their own pocket.

We thank Assemblyman Mabey and his co-sponsors for addressing this important issue and urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to present comment.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR
DATE: 3/19/03 ROOM: 4100 EXHIBIT D
SUBMITTED BY: Neena Laxalt